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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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April 5, 1996

UM'S KYI-YO POWWOW SET FOR APRIL 26-27

MISSOULA --

Plans for this year's Kyi-Yo Indian Club Powwow at The University of Montana—Missoula have been revived as part of a cultural diversity conference slated for the last full week of April.

The powwow, a UM tradition that was briefly canceled last week, is on again for Friday and Saturday, April 26-27, at the Harry Adams Field House. Many other events celebrating diversity are planned for a weeklong conference beginning Monday, April 22.

Shawn Olson-Crawford, Kyi-Yo president, said club members voted to reinstate the powwow Thursday night, April 4, one week after canceling the 28th annual event. She said the club initially designed the cultural diversity conference to substitute for this year's powwow, but members decided to revive the powwow as part of the conference because the student-run event is an important expression of American Indian culture.

Another factor in reviving the powwow was the restoration, at least temporarily, of funding and recognition from the Associated Students of The University of Montana, Olson-Crawford said. ASUM had suspended Kyi-Yo because of questions about the club's constitution, but the Constitutional Review Board ruled this week that the club should be reinstated until a legal determination on the issues is reached.

Olson-Crawford said the club had canceled the powwow "in protest of ASUM's action and as a general protest to discrimination and institutional racism." Since then, she said, club members

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had a productive meeting with UM President George Dennison and Dean of Students Barbara Hollmann. The meeting reassured club members that administrators "are listening to our concerns and will continue listening to our concerns," she said.

The schedule for the powwow and conference is still being developed and will be released later, she said, but it will feature a wide range of discussions and performing arts events. All ethnic and other minority groups on campus will be invited to participate in the conference, she said.

"We want this to be informational, educational and fun," Olson-Crawford said.

Workshops and panel discussions will tackle such topics as legal rights, definitions of discrimination and racism, and students' experiences with discrimination, she said.

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